CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for dynamic linking of software modules, the method comprising:

detecting an event during the execution of a computer program, said program resident in a first memory;

ascertaining whether there is at least one required property associated with said event if said event is detected;

determining a property identifier for said at least one required property if said event is detected; and

loading at least one executable code module from a second memory into said first memory if said event is detected, said at least one executable code module configured with said property identifier.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one executable code module comprises at least one dynamic link library (DLL).

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said event comprises the addition of a hardware device.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said required property identifier comprises a programmable read only memory (PROM) identifier.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said event comprises the removal of a hardware device.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said event comprises the addition of a software module.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said event comprises the removal of a software module.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said event comprises the modification of a software module.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said loading further comprises loading into said first memory said at least one executable code module if said at least one executable code module is not in said first memory.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein

said at least one executable code module comprises at least one dynamic link library (DLL);

said event comprises the addition of a hardware device; and

said required property comprises a PROM identifier.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein

said first memory comprises a DLL cache memory; and

said second memory comprises an installed DLL memory.

12. A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for dynamic linking of software modules, the method comprising:

detecting an event during the execution of a computer program, said program resident in a first memory;

ascertaining whether there is at least one required property associated with said event if said event is detected;

determining a property identifier for said at least one required property if said event is detected; and

loading at least one executable code module from a second memory into said first memory if said event is detected, said at least one executable code module configured with said property identifier.

13. The program storage device of claim 12 wherein said at least one executable code module comprises at least one dynamic link library (DLL).

14. The program storage device of claim 12 wherein said event comprises the addition of a hardware device.

15. The program storage device of claim 14 wherein said required property identifier comprises a PROM identifier.

16. The program storage device of claim 12 wherein said event comprises the removal of a hardware device.

17. The program storage device of claim 12 wherein said event comprises the addition of a software module.

18. The program storage device of claim 12 wherein said event comprises the removal of a software module.

19. The program storage device of claim 12 wherein said event comprises the modification of a software module.

20. The program storage device of claim 12 wherein said loading further comprises loading into said first memory said at least one executable code module if said at least one executable code module is not in said first memory.

21. The program storage device of claim 12 wherein

said at least one executable code module comprises at least one dynamic link library (DLL);

said event comprises the addition of a hardware device; and

said required property comprises a PROM identifier.

22. The program storage device of claim 21 wherein

said first memory comprises a DLL cache memory; and

said second memory comprises an installed DLL memory.

23. An apparatus for dynamic linking of software modules, the apparatus comprising:

means for detecting an event during the execution of a computer program, said program resident in a first memory;

means for ascertaining whether there is at least one required property associated with said event if said event is detected;

means for determining a property identifier for said at least one required property if said event is detected; and

means for loading at least one executable code module from a second memory into said first memory if said event is detected, said at least one executable code module configured with said property identifier.

24. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said at least one executable code module comprises at least one dynamic link library (DLL).

25. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said event comprises the addition of a hardware device.

26. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said required property identifier comprises a PROM identifier.

27. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said event comprises the removal of a hardware device.

28. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said event comprises the addition of a software module.

29. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said event comprises the removal of a software module.

30. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said event comprises the modification of a software module.

31. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said means for loading further comprises means for loading into said first memory said at least one executable code module if said at least one executable code module is not in said first memory.

32. The apparatus of claim 23 wherein

said at least one executable code module comprises at least one dynamic link library (DLL);

said event comprises the addition of a hardware device; and

said required property comprises a PROM identifier.

33. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein

said first memory comprises a DLL cache memory; and

said second memory comprises an installed DLL memory.

34. An apparatus for dynamic linking of software modules, the apparatus comprising:

an ascertainer responsive to an event signal that indicates the detection of an event during the execution of a computer program, said ascertainer configured to ascertain whether there is at least one property associated with said event, said program resident in a first memory;

a determiner operatively coupled to said ascertainer, said determiner configured to determine a property identifier for said at least one required property; and

a loader operatively coupled to said determiner, said loader configured to load at least one executable code module from a second memory into said first memory, said at least one executable code module configured with said property identifier.

35. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said at least one executable code module comprises at least one dynamic link library (DLL).

36. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said event comprises the addition of a hardware device.

37. The apparatus of claim 36 wherein said required property identifier comprises a PROM identifier.

38. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said event comprises the removal of a hardware device.

39. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said event comprises the addition of a software module.

40. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said event comprises the removal of a software module.

41. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said event comprises the modification of a software module.

42. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein said loader is further configured to load into said first memory said at least one executable code module if said at least one executable code module is not in said first memory.

43. The apparatus of claim 34 wherein

said at least one executable code module comprises at least one dynamic link library (DLL);

said event comprises the addition of a hardware device; and

said required property comprises a PROM identifier.

44. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein

said first memory comprises a DLL cache memory; and

said second memory comprises an installed DLL memory.